

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 117719

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:NPG, NATO, MNUC

SUBJECT:NPG - MAY 23 PERMREP MEETING

REF: USNATO 3502, DTG 171908Z MAY 77

1. SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR MAY 23 NPG PERMREP
MEETING ARE OUTLINED BELOW.

2. YOU SHOULD EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR SACEUR'S EFFORTS

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ON THE TNF MODERNIZATION STUDIES, POINTING OUT THAT THEY
HAVE BEEN RESPONSIVE TO COMPLEX TERMS OF REFERENCE LEVIED
BY NPG. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE THE RESPONSIVENESS HE HAS
SHOWN UNDER DIFFICULT CONDITIONS. THE STUDIES SHOULD
ENABLE DETAILED AND THOROUGH MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS, AND
WE SHOULD COMMEND THE STUDIES DIRECTLY TO MINISTERIAL
ATTENTION.

3. WE NOTE THAT ANY COMPLEX STUDY HAS ITS LIMITATIONS, THAT SIMPLIFYING ASSUMPTIONS MUST BE MADE, AND THAT ONE CAN NEVER DO AS MUCH ANALYSIS AS ONE WOULD LIKE. YOU COULD COMMENT, HOWEVER, THAT WE FIND THE STUDIES THOROUGH, THAT THEY PROVIDE AMPLE MATERIAL FOR MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION, AND WE FIND NO LIMITATIONS WHICH WOULD PRECLUDE TAKING FURTHER ACTION ON THE BASIS OF THE STUDIES. WE

ALSO CONSIDER THEM VALUABLE SOURCE DOCUMENTS FOR ANY FUTURE WORK.

4. WE ARE GRATIFIED BY THE FLEXIBILITY SACEUR SHOWS ON THE UTILIZATION OF DUAL-CAPABLE AIRCRAFT, ESPECIALLY FOR THE CONVENTIONAL ROLE WHERE THEY ARE NEEDED SO MUCH TO BOLSTER THE CONVENTIONAL DETERRENT. WE NOTE SACEUR'S STATEMENT THAT 66 AIRCRAFT ON PEACETIME ALERT (QRA) IS CONSIDERED A POLITICAL MINIMUM, AND THIS WOULD APPEAR TO US TO BE ABOUT THE RIGHT LEVEL. WE UNDERSTAND HOW SCENARIO-DEPENDENT AND ASSUMPTION-DEPENDENT THE UTILIZATION OF AIRCRAFT IN SELECTIVE EMPLOYMENT WOULD BE, AND THUS WE UNDERSTAND WHY IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO SET A NUMBER THERE, BUT TO PRESERVE SOME FLEXIBILITY. THE STUDY CAN BE COMMENDED TO CLOSE MINISTERIAL ATTENTION AND PROVIDES FIRM BACKING FOR A WORTHWHILE DISCUSSION.

5. ON THE NIKE HERCULES STUDY, WE THINK SACEUR HAS DONE AN EXEMPLARY JOB IN RESPONDING TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE. THE DIFFICULTIES OF CARRYING OUT AN AIR DEFENSE STUDY ARE
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MANY, GIVEN THE VARIETY OF CIRCUMSTANCES AND ATTACKS THAT COULD OCCUR. THE NEED TO MAINTAIN A DETERRENT, WHILE BOLSTERING OUR MILITARY CAPABILITIES AGAINST AIR ATTACKS, IS ALSO EVIDENT. THE COVERAGE DIAGRAMS WHICH HAVE BEEN PREPARED CORRESPOND CLOSELY TO OUR OWN CALCULATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT, AND MINISTERS WILL WANT TO DISCUSS THE FLEXIBILITY IN MAINTAINING THE DETERRENT THAT THOSE COVERAGE DIAGRAMS DEMONSTRATE.

6. ON THE QUESTION OF NATO'S OVERALL AIR DEFENSE POSTURE, THE US HAS PROPOSED THAT AIR DEFENSE BE ONE OF THE KEY PRIORITY AREAS ADDRESSED IN THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PLANNING EXERCISE WHICH MINISTERS HAVE JUST SET IN MOTION. WE HAVE FOLLOWED WITH KEEN INTEREST THE DISCUSSIONS IN THE MILITARY COMMITTEE AND IN CNADS ON THIS SUBJECT. WE FULLY SUPPORT CAREFUL ALLIANCE PLANNING WHICH WILL MOST EFFICIENTLY PHASE IN NEW SYSTEMS WHILE PHASING OUT THE OLD, AND MAKE THE BEST USE OF THE ALLIANCE'S SCARCE RESOURCES. GIVEN THAT SACEUR PREPARED

THE PRESENT STUDY IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC NPG TERMS OF REFERENCE, IT IS NECESSARILY LIMITED IN THE CONTRIBUTION IT WOULD MAKE TO THE OVERALL AIR DEFENSE PLANNING EXERCISE. INDEED, SACEUR HAS RECOMMENDED THAT EFFORTS COULD BE MORE PRODUCTIVELY DIRECTED TOWARD THE KIND OF EFFORT WE HAVE IN MIND IN THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PLANNING EXERCISE. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE MOST USEFUL IN JUDGING THE ROLE NIKE HERCULES WILL PLAY IN THE FUTURE POSTURE. AGAIN, WE BELIEVE THE STUDY PERMITS A USEFUL MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION.

7. WE ACCEPT THE REPORT OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES, WHICH EFFECTIVELY SERVES TO CALL MINISTERIAL ATTENTION TO PARTICULAR ISSUES. WE ARE ALSO GRATIFIED THAT SACEUR AND THE MILITARY COMMITTEE HAVE SET FORTH CONCISE CONCLUSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS TO ASSIST NPG IN ITS DISCUSSIONS.

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8. ON THE TECHNOLOGY STUDY, GUIDANCE SENT IN STATE 96359 OF 28 APRIL CAN BE DRAWN UPON FOR TALKING POINTS FOR THIS MEETING.

CHRISTOPHER

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